(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Constitution of India clearly defines the functions of Judiciary, Executive and Legislature.

Discussion between the Prime Minister of India and the President of World Bank

*75. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister of India had discussions with the President, World Bank on 19th October, 1996;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed; and

(c) the details of the decisions taken on the issues discussed?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Discussions with the World Bank President focussed on how to improve disbursements in respect of ongoing projects in the country, the future pipeline of the World Bank assistance, and on the present economic situation in the country. The Prime Minister mentioned that housing, Drinking Water, Rural Roads, Primary Health and Education, Infrastructure, among others, are some of the important programmes of the Government. On the mechanism for monitoring projects, it was agreed that a senior officer would be appointed as single point Project Monitoring Authority in all States and Central Ministries having large exposure to World Bank lending for intensive supervision of these projects. The World Bank agreed to continue its support in respect of investments in infrastructure, fiscal adjustment, poverty alleviation, social, agriculture sectors and for private sector development.

Losses suffered by Air India

*76. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the losses suffered by Air India during the current financial year till September, 1996;

(b) the main reasons for its losses; and

(c) the long term perspective plan proposed to improve the quality of its services and motivate its personnel to make Air India a profit making organisation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The estimated loss of Air India for the period April to September, 1996 is Rs. 195 crores. The losses are owing to increase in expenditure on account of interest and depreciation on new aircraft, reduction in yield due to increased comptition, increased landing, handly and navigational charges, agitation of engineers etc.

(c) To improve its financial performance, Air India is taking steps to intensify its marketing efforts, augment capacity, reduce non-operating costs and to improve its product, image and on time performance.

Rate of Inflation during Current Financial Year

*77. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of inflation based on consumer price index and wholesale price index during the first six months of the current financial year;

(b) how this compared with those recorded during the same period of 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96; and

(c) details of reasons for rising trends in both CPI and WPI during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The rate of inflation based on Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) and wholesale Price Index (WPI) during the first six months of the 1996-97 as also for the preceeding three years 1993-94 to 1995-96 is listed below:

Annual Rate of Inflation (%)

Month	Inflation based on WPI				Inflation based on CPI (IW)			
	1996-97	1995-96	1994-95	1993-94	1996-97	1995-96	1994-95	1993-94
April	5.0	10.0	11.8	6.9	9.8	9.7	9.8	6.1
May	4.5	9.9	12.0	6.9	9.3	10.3	10.6	5.1
June	4.5	9.1	11.8	7.0	8.8	10.5	10.8	5.9
July	6.0	8.4	11.6	7.3	8.3	11.4	11.1	4.5
August	6.6	8.8	10.2	8.0	8.9	10.9	10.9	5.8
September	6.4(P)	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.5	10.1	11.2	6.6

P: Provisional

(c) Inflation rate based on wholesale price index which had touched a low of 4.5%, in June 1996 began to show as uptrend from July following the average increase of about 18% in the price on petroleum products. This uptrend was further reinforced subsequently by revision in the prices of coal and sharp increase in price of food-grains namely wheat and rice.

Adverse effect of vacancies of Judges in Bombay High Court

*78. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are as many as eight vacancies of judges in the Bombay High Court at present which is adversely affecting the functioning of the High Court and piling-up of cases therein;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such large number of vacancies of judges in the said High Court; and

(c) by when Government propose to fill up these vacanices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) As on 15.11.96, there were 10 vacancies of permanent Judges against the sanctioned strength of 59 permanent/ Additional Judges of the Bombay High Court. The process of consultation among the concerned constitutional authorities for filling up the vacancies is on. While every effort is being made to fill up these vacancies as quickly as possible, it is not possibe to indicate any specific time in this regard.

Complaints from MPs/Public against Officers of State Bank of Indore

*79. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1612 given in the Rajya Sabha on 30th July, 1996 and state:

(a) the names of the officers of the branches and the Regional Office, Gwalior of the State Bank of Indore against whom complaints have been received from Public and Members of Parliament;

(b) the nature of the process adopted to inquire into the complaints against these officers;

(c) the nature of the complaints for which the concerned Branch Managers of the city branches were "Cautioned" only;